WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES Division of Health Care Financing 1 W. Wilson St. Madison WI 53702

To: <u>Medicaid Eligibility Handbook</u> Users

From: Jim Jones, Director

Bureau of Eligibility Management

Re: MEH Release 06-01

Release Date: 3/13/06 Effective Date: 3/13/06

EFFECTIVE DATE

The following policy additions or changes are <u>effective</u> 03/13/06, unless otherwise noted. Bold text denotes new text. Text with a strike through it in the old policy section denotes deleted text.

UPDATED SECTIONS OVERVIEW POLICY CHANGES The following sections were edited in this release:

4.5.7.4.2 A typo was corrected

The subtitle of this section has changed to: Annuities that can be surrendered (in the accumulation phase) (In the payout phase)

<u>4.7.5</u> Effective January 1, 2006, the average private pay nursing home rate increased to

\$5,339. Text and examples were changed to reflect the new rate.

4.8.4; 5.16.7; 5.16.8; 5.16.9; 8.1.6 These chapters were updated with the Federal Poverty Level increase which was effective February 01, 2006. This information was previously communicated in Operations Memo 06-08.

<u>5.16.3.2</u> The policy regarding age limitations on individuals applying for SeniorCare was clarified.

A single applicant should apply for SC no sooner than **the calendar month** before his/her 65th birthday.

When a couple applies where one spouse is 65 or older and the other is under 65 at the time of application, only the spouse that is 65 or older can be determined eligible.

If both apply, the younger spouse would be denied SC unless s/he is turning 65 within the current or next calendar month. If the younger spouse will turn 65 within the 12-month enrollment period, s/he will receive a notice pending his/her eligibility for the enrollment fee approximately one month prior to his/her 65th birthday